

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: HENRY ALVES, executive

Henry Alves, Portuguese, was born in Kakaako, October 4, 1923, one of eight children. His parents were both Island born. His grandparents came to Hawaii from the Azores.

Henry lived in Kakaako from 1923 until 1942. He attended Pohukaina Elementary School, continued his education at St. Louis College and the University of Hawaii. He was active in St. Agnes Catholic Church activities as well as various Kakaako Community sports programs.

He worked with a certified public accountant firm for 13 years before joining Joe Pao's staff in 1970. He is currently vice president of administration with Lear Siegler, Incorporated/Hawaiian Properties Division. He and his wife, Ruth, and two daughters currently reside in Kailua, Oahu.

TIME LINE

1923	birth: Kakaako
1929	attended Pohukaina Elementary School
1935	attended St. Louis College
1942	moved out of Kakaako
1943	military service
1963	moved to Kailua, Oahu
1970	joined Joe Pao's staff

Tape No. 3-35-1-78

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Henry Alves (HA)

February 1, 1978

Kailua, Oahu, Hawaii

BY: Gael Gouveia (GG)

GG: This is an interview with Mr. Henry Alves. The date is February 1, 1978, in his office in Kailua. The interviewer is Gael Gouveia.

I thought maybe we'd start this morning, what I want to do is get you to repeat some of the things that you told me in the first [unrecorded] interview. If you could perhaps describe the area of Kakaako in which you grew up--the house, and the surrounding neighborhood a little bit.

HA: I was born and raised in Kakaako and more particularly, Queen Street. I was just thinking about it this morning...as far as I'm being the third generation; my parents and likewise my grandparents were inhibited by the plantation syndrome because most of the people were living there like the days of old in the plantations. The Portuguese were all in one particular area. The Japanese were in one particular area. And the Hawaiians in a particular area within Kakaako itself. Our activities centered around our--the church, the Catholic church (St. Agnes) that was in the corner on Queen and Kamanu Street. In that particular area there we were fortunate that the church had a good size playground that we were able to participate in rather active sports, like football, baseball, basketball. The church also had a hall. They had lot of social activities that we participated in and really enjoyed ourselves.

GG: How far was your house from the church?

HA: I believe our house was just about a hundred yards away from the church on Queen Street.

GG: And do you have any idea of the size lot that you were on?

HA: The lots were very small. If I remember correctly my dad bought the house in about 1920, 1919, for about \$1,800, and the lot was only about 3,000 square feet.

GG: What kind of work did your father do?

HA: Ah, my dad was a clerk at Lewers and Cooke for years and after that he went on to Pearl Harbor and was retired from Pearl Harbor.

GG: \$1,800 was for the lot?

HA: House and lot. Uh huh. It was fantastic compared to the prices nowadays.

GG: Was that difficult though, even in those days for him to come up with that kind of money?

HA: It was so. In fact, my dad told me that my grandfather loaned him the entire sum.

GG: So, did he pay cash, then, for the whole thing?

HA: He did. And, he paid back my grandfather over the years.

GG: Did he--was the property leased from the...

HA: It was in fee. It was purchased in fee.

GG: Ah. Do you know who he bought it from?

HA: I don't remember. But, in fact, the house is still there today.

GG: Is somebody still living in it?

HA: Someone's still living upstairs, and, what they did, they raised the house. It was not exactly two-story house but in those days we all had the lathes, and there was another bedroom under the house. We sold it to an electrician years ago and he raised it a little bit and rented upstairs. And he's got his electrical shop downstairs.

GG: Do you remember how long ago the property was sold?

HA: I think we [family] sold it around 1956.

GG: I see. And, now, when you lived in the house--can you describe the house itself?

HA: It was rather small. There was eight of us.

GG: Including your parents?

HA: No, be 10. There was four boys and four girls. And it was a three-bedroom house and I would say, by today's standards, it was really sub-standard for that amount of people. Because I don't believe it was more than, say, 1,100 to 1,200 square feet for the 10 of us.

GG: How did you manage sleeping arrangements?

HA: Well, it was fortunate because there was four boys and four girls and we had not exactly bunk beds, but we were able to manage with four in each, in one particular room, you know.

GG: Where did you go to school?

HA: Well, for the first six grades, I went to Pohukaina, which was only about, say, approximately a mile away from the house. Then, after Pohukaina, I went on to Saint Louis High School and from there to University of Hawaii.

GG: Now, when you were going to Pohukaina, did you walk to school?

HA: We walked to school barefooted.

GG: With other children in the neighborhood?

HA: Yes.

GG: Brothers and sisters?

HA: Other children mostly.

GG: Oh. And, in the area that you lived now, were there only Portuguese living there, or do you recall?

HA: I would say about 90--I keep on thinking about the plantation syndrome. But, I would say about 95 percent in that specific area were Portuguese. And, we had our own little Japanese camps down the street and towards the park--Mother Waldron Park. There was quite a number of Hawaiians that were living side by side.

GG: Did you interact with the Japanese children or the Hawaiian children at all?

HA: Well, yeah, we did at school. But rarely after school, I think, except to participate in sports against those particular individuals. There was no animosity. We had a good rapport in relationships with these individuals. Very good.

GG: But just didn't have much occasion to interact...

HA: No, because, no rarely, because as I said, we concentrated our activities mostly at the church grounds and there wasn't too many Japanese at that time that were Catholics and very few Hawaiians.

GG: So it was primarily a Portuguese congregation at the church?

HA: At the church. Uh huh.

GG: Can you tell me a little bit more about the activities that you participated in at church at various age levels?

HA: Well, we sort of went through the particular stages, like when we were kids we started to play baseball amongst ourselves and we challenged the kids that were living up the street. And not too far away from the particular church that we attended, was the Hawaiian Mission. They had several teams and we, you know, played against them and played against ourselves and in different age groups. Each year, you know, we just, say 9 or 15 of us just went on and became a year older and we challenged the other fellows that were the same age as we were.

GG: Who organized the sports?

HA: Well, we had at the church, mostly the priest and the older fellows that--I know one particular person that was pretty active when I was a kid, was a fellow that was a good athlete at Saint Louis High School. And, he took us along and coached us and set up games for us and even arranged games against kids from other districts like Kalihi, and Makiki and Punchbowl, you know.

GG: Hm. Do you recall who that was?

HA: The fella's name was Henry Alameida. He passed away several--well, no, he died in the War. World War II. He was an officer.

GG: Did your brothers participate in sports, too?

HA: My brothers did. Uh huh. In fact, my older brother was the boxer out of Kakaako. And there was a gymnasium that a lot of us young fellows used to hang around, let's use the term loosely.

GG: Was that Kawaiahao gym?

HA: No, it was the...

GG: Kewalo?

HA: No, on Ilaniwai Street, there was a gym and they had quite a number of excellent boxers. In fact, my brother went on to win the lightweight title here locally and went back to Boston and participated up to the semi-finals.

GG: Hm. Did you or did one of your brothers play with the Kakaako Sons at all?

HA: My older brother did and then I had a brother that's a year older than I am. He played for the Boulevard A.C. [Athletic Club] for a year.

GG: Did you play with either of those groups?

HA: I scrimmaged a lot with them and I played high school ball at Saint Louis.

GG: Uh huh. [Were there] very many children at your age from Kakaako attending Saint Louis?

HA: Yes, there were quite a few. In fact, down the street from us was a fire captain, Mr. Green. And he had about three sons that were going to Saint Louis about the same time I was. And my brother and I, and across the street was my cousin. And the Rassmusens up the street. And, there were quite a number.

GG: How did you get to Saint Louis then?

HA: Ah, we used to walk to King Street and caught the streetcars in those days.

GG: And, that's when Saint Louis was on River Street at that time?

HA: No, no. We went to Kauaipohaku up on the hill.

GG: Ah, I see. That's not where its location is now?

HA: It is. Uh huh. The same spot.

GG: So, that was quite a streetcar ride in those days.

HA: It was. Yeah. For a nickel it went a long way.

GG: How long did it take if you recall?

HA: Well, you know, it stopped and let kids off at McKinley High School, and then it went on to Kaimuki. It took us about half an hour, 45 minutes.

GG: Hm. And then, were you active in student things at Saint Louis or did you come directly home after school?

HA: Well, other than football, we used to come home directly and go back to the corner again at this particular churchyard, there--and play with boys there, then come back and do homework.

GG: Did you have chores to do, too?

HA: Rarely, because I was fortunate there was four girls in the house.

(Laughter)

HA: And the yard was so small there was hardly any yard to speak of. And, it was the same all the way down the street. Not too many people had, you know, good size yards to concern themselves.

GG: Did the family have a garden at all in the yard?

HA: No, no garden. But, I know my mother used to raise chickens and ducks and turkeys in the backyard.

GG: And you boys didn't have to help with them?

HA: No, she managed to do everything besides, you know, do the housework. She was fortunate, as I say, there was four girls that were older than all the boys.

GG: Oh, I see.

HA: And so, they just brought us along with them.

GG: Okay, now you mentioned that you did a lot of things at Saint Agnes. You had also talked a little about Kakaako Mission, now. How were you involved with....and where was it in relation to...

HA: It was just about two blocks away from the church. And it was a very active organization also. They had a fellow there, Mr. Oiler. I forgot his name now. But, he did the same thing as the Catholic church priest. He was very active in motivating the young fellas to participate in baseball, football, you know, whatever sport. And he also had classes in, you know, Bible and so forth. And he was deeply religious. And he had quite a following of many, many young kids in my day.

GG: There was no--were your parents active or devout Catholics? I mean, did they get upset...

HA: Yes. [They were active.]

GG: ...because you went to...

HA: No, not at all. In fact, it wasn't unusual for us to be sitting at certain sermons there. If we--got to, we were going to play, say basketball against them, you know. And the minister would say, "Oh, come on in." You know, and he would give a short lecture on the Bible and so forth. We'd be sitting there. It didn't bother us none at all. And, probably we learned something out of it.

(Laughter)

GG: And were those mostly Portuguese children that were involved with Kakaako Mission?

HA: No, that particular mission were mostly Hawaiians and a few Japanese.

GG: Was it more or less non-denominational?

HA: It was. Uh huh.

GG: And, you also had said that you went to the Japanese language school for awhile. Can you tell me about that?

HA: Yeah, we started off. There was one on Coral Street and it was very active. It normally, it was a very long day for the students there because they would go to Pohukaina. Then after Pohukaina, they would have to go to the, you know, say at about 2:30 until about 5:30 or so at the Japanese school. What they tell me, there was a considerable amount of homework that they were given. And, we started, three cousins, my parents thought it was a good idea. But, we couldn't take the long day and after just about a couple days, we just gave it up.

GG: Uh huh.

HA: Looking back in retrospect, I'm kind of sorry that I did.

GG: Was there any strange feelings that you folks as Portuguese came at all?

HA: No, we approached the principal and he was quite pleased that, you know, we had asked to enroll. And in fact, he gave us the tour that particular day. I don't know the names of it, but they had judo classes with the swords. And these fellas were all padded up. And, we were greatly impressed. More so, because of the judo and the particular sports and the activities involved. We didn't realize the type of--the work that was involved in the classroom. So after three days, the three of us gave it up.

GG: Yeah. Did you boys approach the principal?

HA: We did.

GG: Or did your parents?

HA: No, my father spoke a little Japanese when he lived in Aiea as a boy. And he mentioned the fact that it'd be a good idea that we be able to speak it because we had quite a number of friends that were Japanese boys and they were going to school. And, I guess maybe he wanted to keep us off the streets.

He thought it was a good idea. So we pursued it. But, as I say, when we attended classes for the three days and they start giving homework and you get back home and God, it's 8 o'clock before you were able to do anything on your own. And, we just gave it up.

It's quite interesting.

GG: Okay, what about, I think you had mentioned that your father was quite active in Saint Agnes church. Was he a leader or involved?

HA: Yeah, it seems that he was the one and only president of the Holy Name. He was always, obviously no one would want to run.

And he enjoyed it and then, he kind of for--not exactly forced us. But, I guess there was a little pressure on his part. We had to attend and we always went to the Holy Name meetings and the Mass itself. But, we found it enjoyable because they always had a large breakfast after. All the men met in social hall. So, we used to look forward to being chosen to set the tables up. And that gave us an excuse to leave the Mass, about half of it. See.

(Laughter)

HA: Maybe that's the reason why we enjoyed it. I don't know. (Laughs)

GG: Can you explain a little bit what the Holy Name Society is.

HA: It's a Catholic organization within the church itself just to praise, and honor and adore the Holy Name. Not to use profane language. It's like the societies that they have within the church itself. It was no different. It was just another part of it, the church.

GG: Do you remember approximately how many members there were?

HA: In those days, it was amazing, compared to now. In fact, I don't think it's--like I attend Saint John Vianney church here in Kailua. I don't think they do have a society at all. A Holy Name Society. But, when I was a kid, there used to be 75 to 100 people, the men in the neighborhood.

GG: And then, now, were you like considered a junior member or a regular member, when you were young?

HA: We were--yes, we were junior members until about 16, 17. Then, became senior members.

GG: What kind of breakfast did you used to have?

HA: Oh, it was mostly like bacon and eggs and ham. It was substantial. Very substantial.

GG: Portuguese sausage?

HA: Yes, uh huh. Yes. It was quite common to have it.

GG: Okay, now, and that was again, primarily Portuguese that were involved in that organization?

HA: I would say about 95 percent.

GG: Were there haoles living in the community there that went too?

HA: Very few. In fact, I was just trying to remember. I couldn't remember any at all. We had a few that were Portuguese and Norwegians, Portuguese-French. The Piecvasch family. The Rasmussen family.

GG: What about--was either one of the Portuguese societies active? Lusitana Society or the San Antonio Society in Kakaako? Or were there many, or were you involved?

HA: No, I wasn't. I'm not familiar at all with those organizations.

GG: Hm. 'Course you're third generation and I think these were organizations that the older or former generations were involved in. What about the C.Y.O., then? Was that...

HA: Uh huh. They were very active. In fact, each parish participated in the athletic programs that was formulated by the C.Y.O. There was a central organization at the cathedral. And they organized the football teams, the baseball teams. And our church had a football team for about two years in which we all played against the various parishes in the city here. Sunday afternoons at Saint Louis High School field.

GG: That's where the games were played?

HA: Yeah. Uh huh.

GG: Did you go again on the streetcar, or by then were...

HA: No, we were fortunate. People had trucks or cars and we managed to get a ride to the school site.

GG: Did you socialize after the games with the teammates?

HA: We did, soda and hotdogs around the neighborhood there. Oh, I mean at the field. Yeah. And we got to meet a lot of people by doing so. And a lot of the fellas that we played against were also attending Saint Louis. See, I played in this particular league when I was in the seventh and eighth grade only.

GG: And then, did you continue in C.Y.O. as you got older or just in the seventh grade?

HA: No, I was unfortunate to the extent that the War started in 1941 and I was a senior then. So, just prior to the War, there was--the C.Y.O. was very active out here. Boxing, baseball, football, whatever sports. Basketball. Then it simply died down. Everything died down and came to a screeching halt.

GG: Did you volunteer or were you drafted?

HA: Ah, I was drafted. Uh huh.

GG: And what branch of the service?

HA: In the infantry. (Laughs)

GG: And, did you stay here?

HA: I stayed here for just about a year. Then I was shipped out to Guam.

GG: Were there a lot of your friends from Kakaako? Were they...

HA: Quite a few. My age. Uh huh.

GG: Were you in the infantry with any of the boys from Kakaako?

HA: No, that's the strange part. I was not. I was with an outfit that, I'd say 85 percent were Japanese boys. Yeah, from Hawaii.

GG: Okay. You had mentioned that there were sports for girls, too. Now, did your sisters participate or do you know very much about the...

HA: Sister did in baseball and I remember, as a kid, at Mother Waldron Park, there was quite a number of girls. Teams, you know. Then, they played amongst each other. And also challenge outside, different parks and some of them were very good players.

GG: And, what was the--now, your sisters are older--what was, say, the social scene for girls at the time that they were growing up? I mean, from what I understand, you didn't exactly date the way young people do...

HA: Uh huh.

GG: ...but how did you interact with other boys and girls?

HA: Well, when I was in high school, which they don't have now, I think we were much more fortunate that they had some--there were dances at the Civic Auditorium. There were dances that, like Kalihi Uka and the Armory Hall. And, even at the--there was a lot of high school parties. And, I think, as far as socializing, as far as my sisters, they went through the same stages as we did. All of 'em went to McKinley High School. And there was dancing at the gymnasium at the high school. And, unfortunately, I went to an all boys school, and we didn't have any dancing at the school itself.

GG: My son complains about lack of girls at Saint Louis.

HA: Oh yeah. Still yet? I'll be darn. You know, I'm the president of the Saint Louis Alumni. Maybe I should see the monks about that.

GG: Well now, did the girls go in groups to the dances, or did your

parents take them, or what about you boys too?

HA: Ah, we went in groups, usually. You know, four or five of us got together and, ah...

GG: Four or five boys?

HA: Boys. And went to the dances. Usually, one person would be able to borrow an automobile from the father, then we'd all pile on and attend dances. The girls were fortunate--dates. Otherwise they would go in a group themselves, and I think they had a curfew. They had to be home by 11 o'clock.

GG: Now, at the dances, did they have live music, or did they have...

HA: Yes, it was live music, and excellent, compared to today's standards, I think. I shouldn't compare. It's a different era.

GG: Now, say on Saturdays and Sundays in Kakaako, when you were younger and growing up, did you folks as a family do things together? Or visit with neighbors or...

HA: Rarely we did that. Really. I don't think--I think as each generation, they get closer to the children. I guess our families, or our parents, like there were so many of us, and they had so much work to do. And, things were different. They didn't have the money and the amenities, that we have around now. So, I think our activities, as I say, perhaps that's the reason why it was centered around the church. It wasn't a very expensive way to entertain ourselves.

GG: Did you participate in the Holy Ghost festivities at all?

HA: Yes, when we were kids, we had sort of no choice. Our parents would insist that we had to at least participate, as far as the marching was concerned, you know. Was a fun thing, too. That was another place that was real fun because, you know, for several weeks prior to the feast itself, they'll be activities on the grounds. Boys would be there. Girls would be there. And, it was another way of meeting people and going out.

GG: Did the other ethnic groups that lived in Kakaako come or participate in some way in the Holy Ghost festival?

HA: Yeah. There was a lot of the younger fellas used to come by as far as, you know, there were some games and so forth. And, they did. And, I know there was always a free lunch. And these fellas enjoyed it. They came in, you know, the old Portuguese soup, and meat, and whatever. Sweetbread. Yeah. Was part of the boys that used to come in and participate with us.

GG: Were they from the surrounding area, or from outside?

HA: The surrounding area.

GG: Like some of the boys from the Japanese camp?

HA: Camp. Yeah. The Hawaiian fellas from the park. We were also fortunate that we weren't too far from the beach, and we did a lot of surfing and swimming in the Ala Moana. And, again, you know, everybody would meet there, including the people; the Japanese boys, the Hawaiian boys, and you know. We didn't [think] of people as being, you know, ethnic groups. It was just, we knew you as Jim, or John, and all that. And we met and we surfed. And, in those days, the Ward Estate owned that property fronting the beach itself. And, it used to be a--a baseball field there that we played in. And, in fact, going further back, it used to be an air-field.

GG: Hm.

HA: When we were little kids, small planes.

GG: Yeah. Do you remember seeing planes land there?

HA: Yes. Uh huh.

GG: Were they the much smaller planes?

HA: Very small. Yeah. Uh huh.

GG: What about the clipper ships or the bi-planes?

HA: No, I've never seen. No, I think they used to land at Pearl Harbor, more than likely.

GG: And did--I know there were, I think, diving clubs and...

HA: We used to admire the older fellas which--older fellas--that's a strange word to use now. But along the piers, you know, like (Piers) 7, 8, 9, where the Lurline and the Matsonia [passenger liners] used to come in, and the Pung brothers, that were in Kakaako, they were good divers. My brother used to participate in sports with them. In fact, he dove in the A.A.U. meets with these fellas, you know. And we used to try to go along with them to dive for coins, but they would never let us get in the water.

GG: That was their territory.

HA: Ah, that was theirs. Yeah.

GG: What about--now, you boys were from Kakaako. Did other boys, say from outside, try and come in and dive there?

HA: I don't remember. I think most of the fellas that I know of were, when I was kid, were from the area itself.

GG: Were there other community organizations that you're aware of or that you participated in?

HA: Well, you know, it was a different approach, I guess, to the park's program. Because when we were kids, there was always an individual (recreation director or specialist) assigned to that particular park. And he formulated and motivated the kids to participate in games and sports amongst ourselves, and also in the different districts. Now, I don't see anybody that's, you know, it wasn't the park keeper. He was the recreation--I don't know what they call 'em in those days--but he formulated programs so that the kids would, you know, be really active and participate. So, that was one particular area.

And also, we had--we were fortunate to be close to the Kawaiahao gym, that was part of the Kawaiahao church. And there was several leagues that was going on all year around. And, the City Wide, the city itself had a league they called the City Wide League, which was very active in baseball and basketball. And they had events at the Kawaiahao gym, when we were kids there.

GG: So, you really had sports all year long, then?

HA: Yeah, uh huh.

GG: Did the same--did you play with the same kids on different teams in the different leagues? Or did different kids come together?

HA: Was mostly the people in that neighborhood; we had a team that we challenged different teams, and we could be playing each other for four or five years in a row. But we enjoyed it. We had the activities there. And it kept us busy. It's turn 'em on to what's going on now, when we had the different leagues--like the pony leagues, and the mustangs, and so forth. But, I think, they're better organized now. That's for sure. And, it seems that when we were kids, it was these leagues were formulated through city effort. Or, the parks. But I get the feeling that these different leagues that are in existence now are really formulated by the parents within the neighborhood itself.

So, I admire, because I see so many parents participating with the young kids. In our day, our parents were never around. We just went out in the park and we played, you know. And, we participated, challenged other people, and played other teams. But, our parents were never around. But here, I am greatly impressed when you see mothers driving the kids around to the different parks. And, you know, soccer and... It's an excellent way, I think, to cement relationships between the parents itself and the kids.

GG: Can you attribute the difference to a particular thing, perhaps?

HA: Maybe it's the timing. It's the era. I don't know. I guess, perhaps the parents at this age, you know, they're more sophisticated. They, maybe they got more time on their hands to push the kids and motivate the children.

GG: Well, that's one of the things I wondered about. Now, maybe in your parents' generation, they didn't have, literally, the time.

HA: And the money.

GG: With 10 children.

HA: Yeah, and the money. Here, you see the kids are beautifully uniformed. With us, we played bare-footed, or just no hip, you know, no pads, no nothing, when we were kids. (Now) you see these young fellas, eight, nine years old, completely uniformed, you know. And, which is excellent, you know.

GG: Do you have children yourself that have gone through the....

HA: Only girls. Two girls.

GG: What about politics in Kakaako--were you involved in politics at all, or do you know?

HA: No. I was never involved. But my dad, they, in our days, it was interesting because we had no T.V., or rarely did anyone go on radio. So, the people seeking election would--or the Republican Party--say, would have a meeting at the park. And, all the candidates would be up there making speeches, and it was fun again for us. We used to go around and pass out cards, you know, the respective candidates, to the people that were in attendance. My dad was rather active. For years, he was the president of the precinct that covered a specific area within Kakaako itself. So, because he was, he held that particular position, people that were running for office always came over to talk to him. And, we had the pleasure of meeting a lot of these individuals that--you look back, you know, and the different names of it and you say, "Yeah, I remember him when I was a kid. He was a fantastic speaker or very capable person."

GG: Can you recall some of the names, the ones that came over at a particular time?

HA: Yeah, a fella that I will never forget because he was most greatly impressive, was a fella named Johnny Asing, that was a councilman--in those days was the Board of Supervisors. And this fellow was an excellent speaker, and he spoke in Japanese, Hawaiian, Chinese, Portuguese and English. So, he went up there and he sang, and he addressed the different people by their, you know, the particular ethnic group. Interesting.

GG: Can you describe a little bit what it was like to go to one of these political gatherings, because I understand they were quite colorful.

HA: They were, because we were greatly impressed always, because maybe there were, let's say, 15, 20 speakers. And these individuals would set up a program where, when they get up on the stand there, or platform, women would come by and, you know, furnish them with beautiful leis and kiss each other. Then, the musicians would be playing, you know, and all that. It was most entertaining. And, they had beautiful hula dancers in those days and also the Hawaiians singing. You know, Hawaiian music.

GG: Approximately how many people would go to the rallies?

HA: I'd say a couple of hundred. A couple of hundred. It was, as I say, that was probably the only means that these individuals running for office could get to the people, as far as....yeah, that was the only way. Yeah. I don't ever remember listening to the radio, as far as someone running for office and expounding on his capabilities and so forth. His talents. But, in these particular rallies, it was most interesting. And, you didn't mind listening to those speeches because of what went along with it, you know. You see all the leis and the hula dancing and the singing. And, as kids, we really enjoyed it because the fella running would look for the smaller fellas like us, you know, and would give us a big bunch of cards and ask us to pass it around. It was most interesting.

GG: How did the word get out that there was going to be a rally at the park on the Saturday?

HA: I'm not sure at this point in time. But, as I say, my dad was actively involved in his particular precinct, and being a Republican, we would know. And at the park there would be always a sign, you know, in the beginning of the week, that there'd be a Republican rally. Or, there'd be a Democratic rally on a particular night.

GG: Did you go to Democratic rallies as well as Republican?

HA: Oh, we weren't prejudice. We (laughs), we went to both of 'em. Yeah.

GG: What about, too, like some of the Japanese cultural events? Say, the bon dances, or something like that. Would you folks go to watch?

HA: Yeah, when we were kids. Out of curiosity. Just once or twice. And, something we didn't understand so, rarely did we ever go back again. But, we enjoyed when they had their sports, like the judo and the swords; and, Saturday mornings, if we had nothing to do, we'd walk over to the Japanese school, or the Japanese mission and watch them participate in the particular events.

- GG: What about, I understand from time-to-time, they had Japanese theatre that came to Kakaako. From what I understand, you had to, like, purchase an area to sit to watch the Japanese theatre. I wondered if perhaps, other people participated in that, too, or that was more or less strictly Japanese?
- HA: I think that was strictly Japanese function because, as I say, we didn't understand the language. So we never attended.
- GG: Did you ever have, say, other people come to your home for dinner, or did you go to other peoples' homes for dinner to visit, play cards, or things of that sort?
- HA: I think when I was a kid, mostly our grandparents lived around the neighborhood, and going out to dinner meant going to their place. And I don't remember, as I say, we had a sizeable family. And, we'd be eating perhaps, if we visited, say, an aunt, we were over there in time for dinner, they'd ask us to stay. But as a social function within our group, rarely did we ever go out to have dinner.
- GG: Let's see, you were born in 1923, so I assume by the time you were old enough to remember the roads. Were they paved already?
- HA: Oh, my recollection. They were, except for areas towards Ala Moana and....we had an area that they designated as Squattersville. There was a lot of Hawaiians that lived there and most of the roads were unpaved.
- GG: Hm. Do you recall very much, or did you ever get into that area?
- HA: We did. I always remember it, because there used to be a policeman there by the name of Palinapa lived there, and he was a huge fellow. And, not mean, but.... (Laughs) He wasn't very kind to us. He had several dogs.
- GG: For what purpose did you go there?
- HA: For visiting the fellas that we knew in school, and also, you know, playing with them baseball and so forth.
- GG: Can you describe the area. We've had a number of people mention Squattersville, but nobody could describe or remember it.
- HA: Yeah. Well, it's in the area where Honolulu Ford is, and Gold Bond building. In that particular vicinity. Towards the beach and there used to be a school. I think the name of it was Opportunity School, that if you was in the regular public school. And, well, I don't know how the--the criteria that was used, but these were people that were rather slow. The kids were rather slow so they would end up in this particular school. Special classes and so forth. And, that school was right on the water.

GG: Was that, then, right at the edge of Squattersville?

HA: Right on the edge of that.

GG: Because, eventually, wasn't Squattersville all cleaned out?

HA: It cleaned out.

GG: I thought that was around 1927, and I was wondering, it must've been later if you were old enough to go down there and remember.

HA: Nah, I remember the area. Really. Yeah, because I remember Palinapa real well. And there's another policeman. I can't think of his name. In fact, he has two sons. Oh, Whistle. His name was Whistle. The two sons went to Saint Louis High School also. It was before us. They lived there for awhile, and they moved on Halekauila Street somewhere.

GG: Well now, in the area of Squattersville, were the houses just here or there, and elsewhere randomly?

HA: I think so. You know, now, as I know it now, as a lot, and it's the same with the Japanese, what we call camps, when we were kids. You know, they were just placed at random and side-by-side. I don't know if, in fact, it never occurred to me. In fact, what I believed that the lands were mostly owned by the Bishop Estate then. So, it didn't matter. You didn't have a lot. They just took an area and built 30, 40 homes there. The Japanese were very neat people because we visited quite few houses, and they were different, as far as their homes, because it was just like a two-story building, always. They had rooms downstairs, you know, and kitchens, and upstairs, the bedrooms.

GG: Was Magoon Block still around when you...

HA: Magoon Block was still around. I remember Magoon Block.

GG: Did you go there for any reason?

HA: Yeah, there used to be an ice cream parlor when we were kids there. I don't remember the name of the Japanese fella that had the stores, you know, (downstairs) along the line, and upstairs where people lived. Tenants like. And, downstairs were all the different stores.

GG: Were you boys allowed, then, pretty much to go as you pleased within the district there?

HA: Yeah, we had no problems. As long as--we were kids until high school, we had to be home by 8 o'clock. And in those days, we were close enough to the Aloha Tower and the siren would blow at eight, and that was it.. And, everybody started to run for home.

GG: Do you feel, or I think, you know, it's been said that Kakaako is a-- rough area. Did you find it to be so?

HA: I don't think so. Really. I think it's like anywhere else. You know, everybody had the same opportunity in this particular era that we were born. Other people were better off than we were, obviously. And, but I think the chances of, through the educational system and so forth, was there. And, some of us took advantage of it and others didn't. I think a lot of us unfortunately, or maybe fortunately, the War came on and gave us a chance to go on to college with the G. I. Bill of Rights.

GG: Okay, well, maybe we can stop there today.

END OF INTERVIEW

REMEMBERING KAKA'AKO: 1910-1950

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